

CPYRGHT

Intelligence Shuffle

There will be much speculation as to the reasons for the first major change in the Kennedy administration's civilian team. But our first concern over the switch from Allen Dulles to John McCone as head of the Central Intelligence Agency is that the post will continue in highly capable hands.

Like two other recent presidential appointees to key jobs, Mr. McCone is a Republican businessman. More important, he has shown sound administrative abilities and knows his way around Washington. His service as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission was widely commended. And it gave him a good introduction to security problems.

Mr. Dulles has impressed Washington generally as a devoted and able public servant in a most diffi-

cult job. At the time of the Cuban fiasco the CIA drew considerable blame. Some of its operatives apparently relied too much on one group of Cuban refugees. And certainly the holding of Cuban leaders incommunicado was a most un-American proceeding. But for the larger decisions responsibility must go to higher authority.

The traditional distaste of Americans for spying causes many to dodge the fact that they are today running a tremendous, world-girdling spy apparatus. Facing the tightly closed police states linked in the Communist conspiracy this intelligence task is as essential to the safety of free men as it is difficult. And by its nature it may be most efficient when it goes most unnoticed. But it should not go unappreciated.